

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
-------------------

**Board Members:** Ben Espitia, Bryant Daron, Coleen Maldonado, Darick Simpson, Darnisa Tyler, Farley Herzek, James Drake, Kim Armstrong, Lisa Adams, Matt Saldana, Mario Gonzalez, Sam Banuelos, Sandy Annino, Tom Benson, Wayne Munchel, Yolanda Dove

**Staff:** Bryan Rogers, KC Nash, Rick Gonzalez, Alejandra Lopez, Susan Gainey

**Guests:** Richard Brunette (City of Torrance), John Jones (City of Torrance), Tony Hord (ACCORD), Demona Barlow (ACCORD), Kelly Miller (SSG/OTTP), Natalie Soatin (SSG/OTTP)

<b>AGENDA</b>
---------------

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

**II. Self-Introductions**

Darick Simpson welcomed attendees and asked those present to introduce themselves and indicate what goals they would like to see the Youth Council accomplish this year. Some of the goals expressed by attendees include: building and enhancing regional collaborative partnerships; coordinating and leveraging resources; developing youth academic and technical skills; increasing outreach to out-of-school, foster, and transitioning youth; strengthening youth connections to internships, externships, work experience, and volunteer opportunities.

**III. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

- Coleen Maldonado provided an update on a conference hosted by LBCC designed to expose high school students to various career pathways. The event was very successful and the response was tremendous. A similar conference designed for middle school students will be conducted on January 14, 2009.
- Darick extended an invitation to 4 or 5 Council members to attend the CWA Youth Conference (Smart Moves in Turbulent Times) to be held in

Long Beach January 20-22, 2009. Given the expense, we would hope that interested members would attend all 3 days. Those interested should contact K. C. Nash. Matt Saldana suggested identifying some youth to attend and indicated he would follow-up with Bryant Daron on potential candidates from EPHS.

➤ Matt informed members of a proposal to convert the current DeMille Middle School into a career and technical school. If approved, the school would open in Fall 2011, host 1,080 students and focus on engineering, good movement/logistics, health/medical, legal services, law enforcement, and forensics.

#### **IV. Executive Director's Report**

➤ Bryan indicated that the most recent figures for Long Beach (November 2008) reflect a 9.6 percent unemployment rate and 6 percent for the four Network communities combined. As a result, employment opportunities are tight, but staff is working very hard to support customers and access available opportunities.

➤ WIA funding for the coming year should be stable and given the state of the economy in California compared to the rest of the country, California might possibly receive increased funding. In addition, given ongoing discussions regarding the economic stimulus package and the possible inclusion of funding for a summer program, we may possibly receive additional funds.

#### **V. Presentation – ACCORD Community First**

Tony Hord, Program Director, provided a detailed overview of the major components of their program (handouts provided).

#### **VI. Council Discussion**

##### **➤ PY 2008 – 2009 WIA Youth Academy Performance**

Rick Gonzalez and Alejandra Lopez provided an update of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Evaluations for Subcontractors for in- and out-of-school youth. Overall, increases in Enrollments, Pending Eligibility, Basic Skills Remediation, Work Readiness Training, Occupations Skills Training and Certificate Attainment have been reported. Staff is reviewing responses received from Subcontractors who had received evaluations regarding enrollment performance. A meeting will be requested with one Subcontractor who did not respond to the evaluation.

##### **➤ Priority Focus for 2009**

K. C. Nash facilitated discussion of the current status of the WIB's Strategic Planning Process. The Executive Committee had asked staff to prepare recommendations on the top three key strategies for advocacy, industry solutions, and youth development. Currently, four youth development strategies have been identified:

- Increase Vocational Skills of Youth
- Conduct Youth Roundtables (i.e., law enforcement)
- Connect Youth to Entrepreneur Programs
- Guest Career Technical Education Teachers

In preparation for staff recommendations, K. C. asked for input on possible revisions or additions to the strategies identified. Kim Armstrong and Matt Saldana suggested revision the first strategy to read “academic and technical skills of youth” rather than “vocational skills”. The need to connect in-school and out-of-school youth to education/training, job shadowing, internship/externships, volunteering, and work experience opportunities was discussed, with the group agreeing to expand the third strategy. Darick and Matt expressed the need to increase awareness about labor laws and employment options among younger youth. Ben Espitia suggested consideration of a strategy whereby the city would promote hiring of youth (like First Source).

KC requested the Youth Council’s opinion and decision in narrowing down the proposed strategies to the top three. Rather than choosing, it was agreed that the following six strategies should be considered:

- Increase Academic and Technical Skills of Youth
- Conduct Youth Roundtables (i.e. law enforcement)
- Connect Youth to Internship / Externship and Entrepreneur Programs and Expand For-credit Opportunities
- Guest Career Technical Education Teachers
- Increase Awareness Among Youth About Labor Laws and Employment Options (Younger Youth)
- City to Promote Hiring (like First Source) for Youth in City Agreements

Yolanda Dove raised a question about the Youth Council’s mission and vision as a means to help define the top strategies for the year. Darick noted it would be available at the next meeting. James Drake provided insight, noting the mission statement is a living document evolving with the changing times.

## **VII. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.